

Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No.: 10/820,438
Response dated: March 10, 2006
In reply to the Office action mailed: November 10, 2005

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Amendments to the Drawings

FIG. 2 has been amended to add the reference numerals 200 and 208.

FIG. 4 has been amended to replace the reference numeral "106" with --206--.

FIG. 10 has been amended to replace the reference numeral "1007" with --1004--.

FIG. 19 has been amended to replace the reference numeral "800" with --1900--.

Attachments: Annotated Sheet showing changes made to FIG. 2
Annotated Sheet showing changes made to FIG. 4
Annotated Sheet showing changes made to FIG. 10
Annotated sheet showing changes made to FIG. 19
Replacement Sheet including FIGS. 1 and 2
Replacement Sheet including FIGS. 3 and 4
Replacement Sheet including FIGS. 10 and 11
Replacement Sheet including FIGS. 18 and 19

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Remarks

Responsive to the Office action mailed November 10, 2005, Applicants provide the following remarks. As of the November 10th Office action claims 1-3 were pending. Reexamination and allowance of the subject application is respectfully requested.

In the Claims

New claims 4 through 21 have been added. Support for these new claims can be found, for example, in paragraph [0041] through [0056], and FIGS, 5, 8-21 of the published application. Accordingly, no new matter is believed entered by these amendments.

In the Drawings

FIGS 2, 4, and 10 were objected to for not including reference signs mentioned in the specification. These figures have been amended to add the missing reference numerals, or where appropriate to replace an incorrect reference numeral with the proper reference numeral. The amendments are called out in the Annotated Sheets and reflected in the Replacement Sheets, appended hereto. No new matter is believed added by these amendments.

Additionally, FIG. 12 was objected to for including reference numeral 1230, which was believed not mentioned in the specification. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the last sentence of paragraph [0053], wherein reference numeral 1230 is recited as indicating a front cover. Withdrawal of this objection is, accordingly, requested.

FIG. 19 has been amended herein to replace the reference numeral "800" with the reference numeral "1900". The specification has been amended at paragraph [0057] to read consistently. No new matter is believed added.

In the Specification

The specification was objected to for including minor errors, such as typographical errors, and inconsistent language. The specification has been amended to correct such errors at each incident identified by the Examiner. Amendments to the specification have been made by reference to the paragraphs of the patent application publication. Additionally, Applicants have

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reviewed the specification and made such additional correction as necessary. No new matter is believed introduced by these amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 2 was rejected because the phrase "wherein said connection bar includes angularly disposed relative to said main plate" is not grammatically correct. Claim 2 has been cancelled rendering the rejection moot.

Additionally, claim 3 was rejected because the term "said assembly" lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 3 has been amended to replace "said assembly" with --said system--. The rejection is believed overcome by this amendment. Withdrawal of the rejection in view of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kaijala et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,729,194). The rejection is respectfully overcome for the reasons detailed below.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the aspect of the connection bar disposed in a plane at an angle relative to a plane in which the main plate is disposed, such as generally recited in claim 2 and described, e.g., in paragraphs [0046], [0059]-[0060], as well as being depicted in the various drawings. As amended, independent claim 1 reads:

1. (Currently Amended) A child safety seat sensor system comprising:

a main plate configured for attachment to a fixed vehicle structure, said main plate disposed in a first plane;

a movable member having a portion at least partially disposed in an opening in said main plate, said movable member comprising a connection portion extending from said main plate in a second plane oriented at an oblique angle relative to said first plane, said connection portion comprising a connection bar for receiving an attachment mechanism fixed to said child safety seat;

at least one magnet fixed to said movable member; and

a Hall device disposed adjacent said magnet and fixed to said main plate, whereby tension on said connection bar causes relative motion between said at least one magnet and said Hall device,

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said Hall device providing a first output upon application of tension to said bar and a second output when tension is removed from said bar. (Emphasis added)

In contrast to amended claim 1, in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 of Kaijala et al. the anchor plate (60), which the Examiner characterizes as having an s-shape, includes a cutout (63) in which the magnet assembly (100) is located. Col. 3, l. 41-44. “As housing 40 moves, carriage 90 and hall effect device 82 are moved relative to magnet assembly 100 which is held fixed by fastener 120 through anchor plate 60.” Col. 3, l. 53-56 (emphasis added). Accordingly, Kaijala et al. do not teach the claimed invention.

Furthermore, the configuration of the anchor plate (60) shown in FIG. 2 does not provide the claimed aspect of a “main plate disposed in a first plane” and a “connection portion extending from said main plate in a second plane oriented at an oblique angle relative to said first plane.” As shown, and even according to the Examiner’s characterization of an s-shape, the anchor plate (60) is not disposed in a plane that is at an angle relative to a plane in which the housing 40 is disposed. Rather, the anchor plate is shaped to provide an offset configuration, or lateral jog. As shown in FIG. 2, the end of the anchor plate fixed by the fastener (120) is oriented parallel to the housing. The offset configuration of the anchor plate is shown in FIG. 2 to place a fixing surface of the anchor plate generally in line with a bottom of the housing. Therefore, while a portion of the anchor plate may be angled relative to the housing, the anchor plate as a whole does not extend at an angle relative to the housing. Rather the anchor plate and the housing are disposed in generally parallel planes.

By contrast to the offset arrangement taught by Kaijala et al., independent claim 1 recites, in part, a “main plate disposed in a first plane” and a “connection portion extending from said main plate in a second plane oriented at an oblique angle relative to said first plane.” Accordingly, claim 1 requires that the overall, arrangement of the connection portion is oriented extending at an angle to the main plate. As described, for example, in paragraphs [0059]-[0060], in one embodiment consistent with the claimed invention, the angled relationship between the sensor body and the connection portion may allow a sensor body to be mounted to fixed vehicle structure and permit the connection bar to extend between the seat back and the seat cushion. Furthermore, the angled relationship may provide a pull angle producing a switch output in

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response to an applied force that may be between an upper and lower switch point limit defining a required switch zone.

In summary, Kaijala et al. do not teach a sensor system including a magnet fixed to a movable member, and a Hall device fixed to a main plate configured for attachment to a fixed vehicle structure in which the movable member includes a connection portion extending at an oblique angle relative to the main plate. Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection in view of the amendments and remarks herein, is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kaijala et al. As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, a “main plate disposed in a first plane” and a “connection portion extending from said main plate in a second plane oriented at an oblique angle relative to said first plane.” Kaijala et al. fail to teach, or even suggest this aspect of the claimed invention.

In rejecting claim 2, the subject matter of which is generally incorporated into amended claim 1, the Examiner correctly understood the claim to require the connection portion to be angularly disposed relative to the main plate. However, in arguing that such an aspect is obvious over Kaijala et al., the Examiner asserted that the anchor plate has an s-shape, and “thus the housing is disposed at some angle to at least a portion of the anchor plate.” (Emphasis added) Applicants respectfully submit that the asserted teachings of Kaijala et al. do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

As discussed above, the s-shaped configuration, as Kaijala et al. is characterized by the Examiner, provides an offset arrangement of the anchor plate. However, the general, or overall, orientation of the anchor plate relative to the housing is a generally parallel arrangement. However, the claimed configuration requires that the connection portion be disposed in a plane that is at an oblique angle relative to a plane in which the main plate is disposed. This aspect is not taught or suggested by the arrangement taught by Kaijala et al. in which “a portion” of the generally parallel anchor plate is disposed at an angle relative to the housing.

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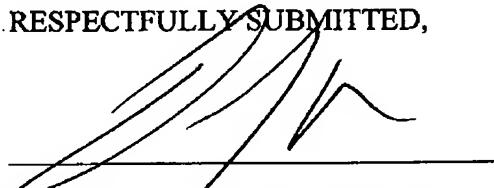
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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1, as well as any claim depending thereupon, is neither taught nor suggested by Kaijala et al. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all of the outstanding rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

The application, as amended, includes a total of twenty claims, with three of the twenty claims presented in independent form. Accordingly no additional fees are believed necessitated by this response. However, in the event that there are any fee deficiencies, or additional fees are payable, please charge, or credit any overpayment to, our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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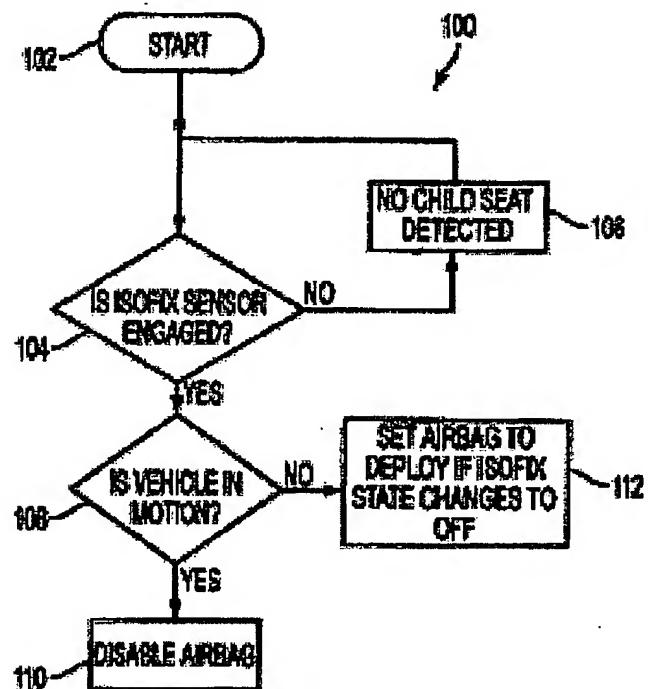


FIG. 1

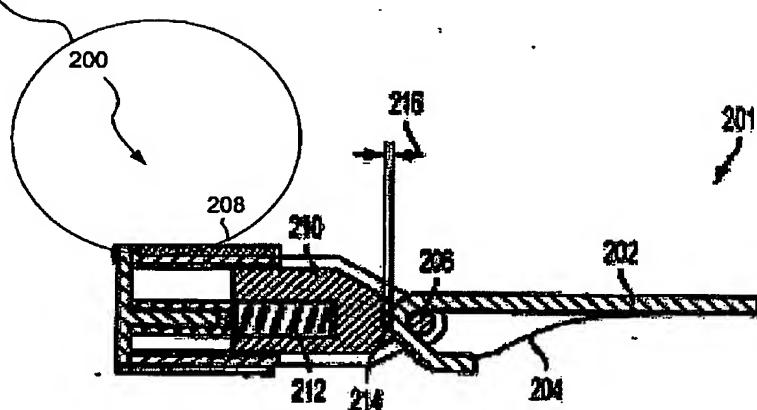


FIG. 2

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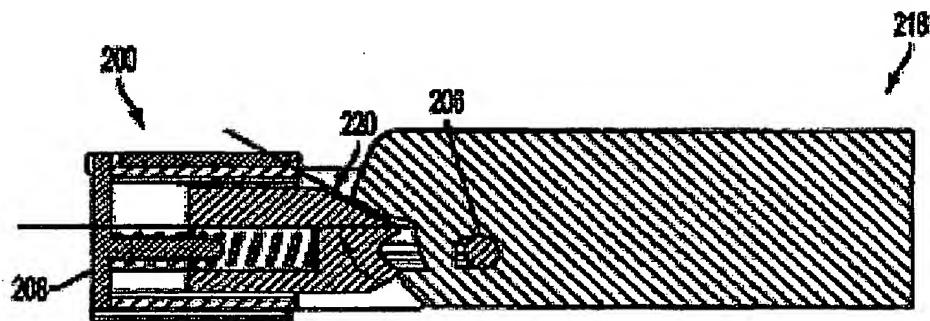


FIG. 3

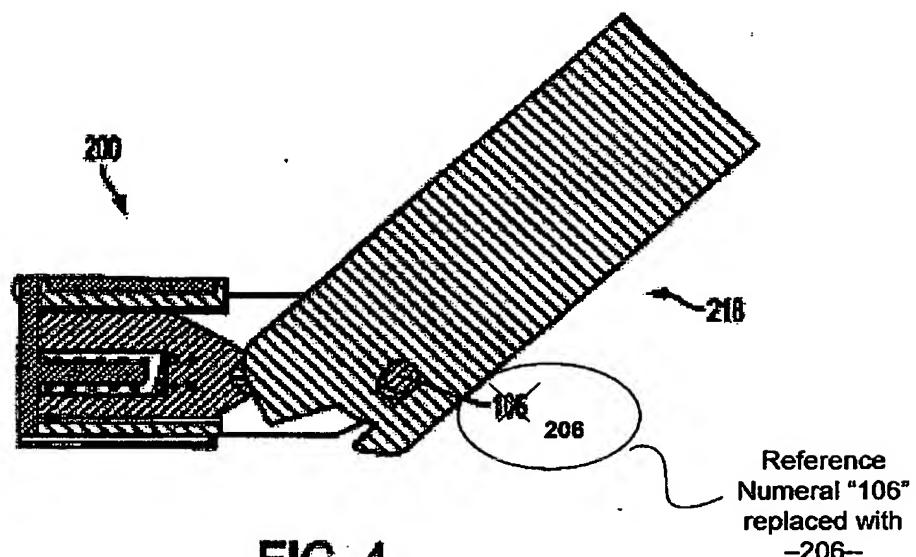


FIG. 4

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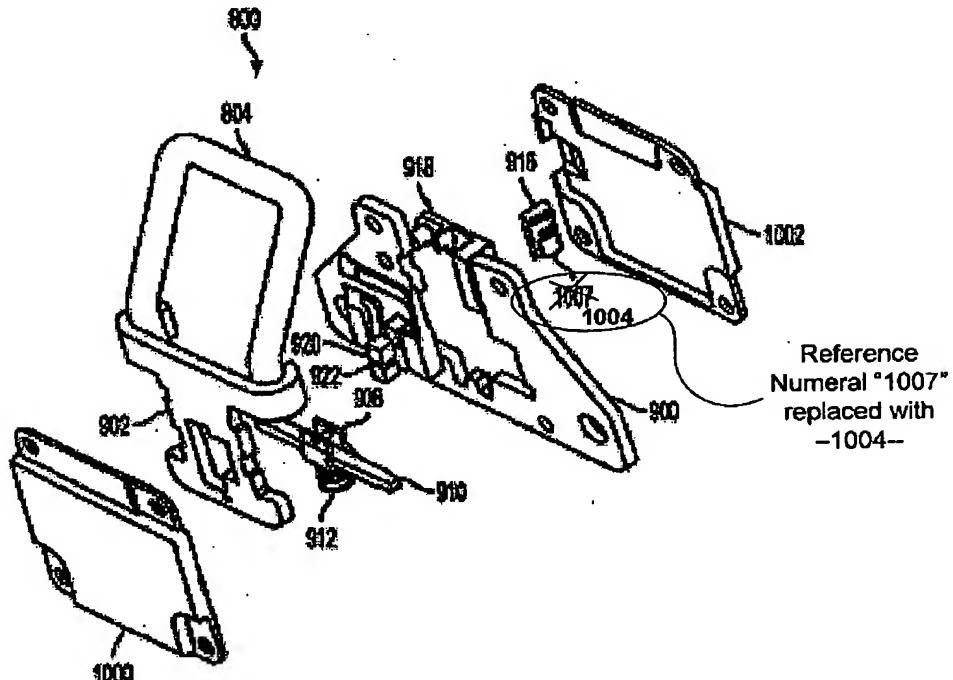


FIG. 10

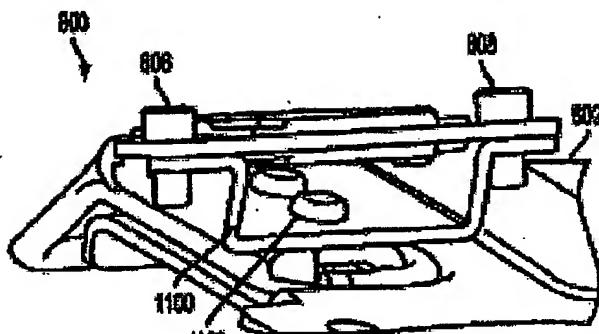


FIG. 11

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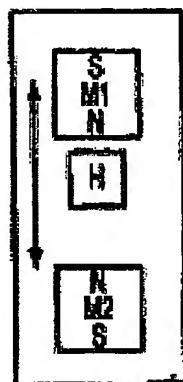


FIG. 18

Reference
Numeral "800"
Replaced with
-1900-

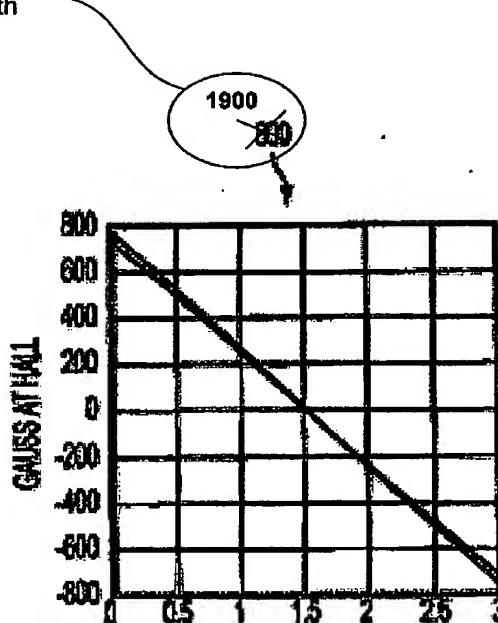


FIG. 19